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THE COMMON CAUSE

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union 602.*** **LAW-ABIDING.**

VOL. VI., No. 295.] FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1914. [PRICE 1D.
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HOW TO HELP.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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Notes and News.

Problems of War.

We propose to publish in THE COMMON CAUSE a series of articles on the problems of war and peace. Some of these questions have been raised by the present war; others have been occupying the attention of statesmen and thinkers for many years. We are all anxious to know our own case, and almost more anxious to know what constructive proposals have been made or are being made for the future, by those who have most carefully studied such questions. We want facts as well as theories. THE COMMON CAUSE will endeavour to supply them. But since, on so controversial a subject, it is hardly possible to disentangle the "fact" from the "theory" it is quoted to support, we shall leave writers free to say exactly what they think, without editorial responsibility.

"To Discuss the Attitude of the N.U. to War."

Following on the interesting discussion which took place at the Provincial Council of the N.U.W.S.S., we note that the Manchester and District Federation is holding a special conference to discuss "the attitude of the N.U to War." Miss Ashton will take the chair, and Miss Courtney and Miss Catherine Marshall will speak. This seems to us an eminently wise policy, and we hope it will be very widely adopted. The conference will, of course, be held in private, but the discussion will be open to all members.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

Two Hospital Units of the Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service are now fairly under way. The French Hospital is being sent to the Abbaye de Royaumont, Asnières sur Oise, Seine et Oise, a house within twelve miles of Chantilly, which has been placed at the disposal of the French Red Cross by its owner. We are informed that it is a perfectly appointed house, three large reception-rooms on the ground floor which will probably hold most of the Hospital, ample room for officers' quarters and for staff, electric light, hot and cold water, and a new drainage system. Motor-ambulances will be necessary to take the wounded from the station and three of these have already gone out. Mrs. Owen, who is Administrator of the Unit, left Victoria on Monday, Nov. 30th, with an advance guard of Miss Cicely Hamilton (Clerk to the Unit), three V.A.D.'s, and three servants. The Unit looked very smart in their grey uniform with tartan facings. The rest of the Unit, with Dr. Frances Ivens in charge, leave this week.

The Serbian Unit.

The Serbian Hospital also starts this week from Southampton, Dr. Soltau and Dr. Holloway in charge. Their destination is Uskub, and there is no doubt that a great work awaits this Hospital among the Serbians, who need medical help almost more than any other of the warring nations at the present moment. The funds at the disposal of the Hospitals now reach £6,000, and the Committee has turned its attention to the equipping of a third Unit, for which past and present students of Girton and Newnham are raising £1,000—for the equipment alone. This Unit will be placed in the western theatre of war either under the French or Belgian authorities.

A Gallant Frenchwoman.

In the region of Senlis another Frenchwoman has emulated the example of the famous Mme. Macherez, who constituted herself the Mayoress of Soissons when the Germans entered that town. In a small town of Senlis, the German General was greatly annoyed at finding no head officials and only a small number of inhabitants. Mme. L. (her name is not given), appearing to answer his irritated questions as to where they all were, replied significantly: "You should know best the reason of their flight from before your soldiers."

"But the Mayor?" he asked.

SNA X

"The Mayor had two young daughters, General."

Finally, terms were arranged between Mme. L. and the General, and though the town was pillaged for food, no outrages or cruelties were inflicted on the inhabitants.

Women Patrols.

We cannot help regretting that the patrols appointed by the N.U.W.W. are not in uniform. The reasons put forward by some critics appear to us to be based on a misconception. It is said, for instance, that if the women wore a uniform, it would make it difficult for them to find cut what is going on. But most of us know pretty well what is "going on," and where it is something wrong the patrol's duty is not to watch it, but to stop it. They are not detectives so much as police, and the more well-defined their position and authority, the better they will do their work. In certain of the United States, women park-keepers have been appointed, and their appearance, like that of our own police, brings order with it. So it should be here. Nothing extraordinary is required, but the dress should be uniform—a dark blue coat and skirt, a black felt hat, and the arm-badge, are all that is needed. People would soon learn to recognise them, and would know to whom to turn for help in case of need.

Unemployment.

It is bad news that industrial depression still prevails in Lancashire, for the textile industries are of great national importance. Industrial unemployment among men has been almost completely met by recruiting, but among women it is acute in Lancashire and parts of London. There are also a very large number of women, as well as many men, in the cotton industry, working on short time. The figures given by the Board of Trade are not complete, as they are compiled from returns from firms employing about 4,000,000 persons out of a total of 9,250,000. Still, the inquiry is fairly representative, and it shows only about 7,000 men as against 139,000 women out of work in October.

Insurance for Women.

The Departmental Committee admits that the Insurance Act under-estimated the amount of sickness among women. Moreover, in some cases, insured persons are found to be receiving more, when ill, than the amount of their wages when well. The remedy is "such an improvement in the economic conditions affecting women as will diminish the attractiveness of sickness benefit." We agree with Miss Macarthur, who, in a memorandum, urges that poverty is the main cause of the excessive sickness among women. It is so, indeed.

Maternity Benefit.

It seems clear that, behind all the quibbles about pregnancy being a "natural" condition, and not a disease, there is a real inability on the part of approved societies to meet the claims made on these grounds. It is now recommended that the Government make a special grant for the purpose. Miss Macarthur, however, demands a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole question, and we warmly support the demand.

Martial Law for Women.

An extraordinary report reaches us from Cardiff, to the effect that five women have been arrested and court-martialled for being out of doors "within prohibited hours." It appears that the military authorities ordered that all prostitutes were to remain indoors between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. Five women transgressed the order and have been arrested. We desire to know (1) whether such orders are legal, (2) on whose authority it is decided that any woman is or is not a prostitute, (3) whether the order applies to the rich as well as the poor woman, and, if so, by what means it is proposed to carry it out, (4) what steps are being taken to protect women and girls from immoral men, equivalent to the protection supposed to be afforded to men by these ordinances against immoral women. We are making inquiries into the whole of this extraordinary proceeding.

"The Common Cause" for Camps.

We want to thank our readers for their splendid response to our appeal for copies of The Common Cause for the reading-rooms in our camps. Sixty-two copies are now being sent regularly. But we want two or three hundred! Please send us money (3s. 3d. or 6s. 6d., for six months or twelve), or a promise to forward your own copy. We will send you an address for it. Please see also page 586.

In Parliament.

November 25th.

War Office Contracts (Fair Wages Clause).

Mr. Rowlands (Dartford, L.) asked what steps were being taken by the War Office to prevent abuse of the Fair Wages Clause, seeing that the clause in Government contracts relating to all work being done on the premises of the contractor is now suspended.

The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Baker, Accrington, L.) replied that in all contracts from which the clause referred to has been suspended provision is made that "all wages earned in connection with this contract shall be paid direct to the workers, and not through a foreman or others supervising or taking part in the operations upon which the workers are engaged." Any complaint that the Fair Wages Clause is not being observed is at once investigated.

Mr. Rowlands asked whether the price-lists of the work given out could be at the disposal of the trade union officials. There had been much sweating in the past—particularly in connection with the accoutrements trade—and it was believed that the same was taking place now.

Mr. Baker said he thought the safeguards were very considerable, and that he would be glad to investigate any cases.

Soldiers' Wives (Police Warning).

The Earl of Ronaldshay (Middlesex, Hornsey, U.) asked the Under Secretary of State for War if it is the intention of the War Office to place the wives of all soldiers under police supervision; and what are the reasons for issuing such an order.

Mr. Baker replied that the intention of the War Office was only to give a warning where misconduct had actually taken place.

November 26th.

Army Saddlery (Women's Wages).

Mr. Yeo (Tower Hamlets, L.) asked the Home Secretary whether he knew that women engaged on making saddle-covers for the army are earning about one penny an hour, and twopence to threepence per hour on ground sheets, working about fifty-nine hours per week, and that those in clerical work earn about 9s. 10d. per week of fifty-nine hours, at a well-known firm doing army work?

Mr. Baker replied that if particulars were furnished with regard to the firm referred to he would have the matter investigated.

Care of Wounded at the Front—Supply of Nurses.

Lord Robert Cecil (Hitchin, U.) asked whether there were sufficient nurses in the clearing hospitals:—

"That is a matter I venture respectfully to think is of great importance, and I know that there are high medical authorities who take that view, not only because of the high skill which an English trained nurse possesses, but also because the actual psychical effect of having a woman to attend a wounded man is a very great element in the satisfactory progress of his injury."

Mr. Douglas Hall (Isle of Wight, U.) urged that there should be plenty of nurses at the clearing hospitals:—

"Until quite recently there were no nurses employed, only hospital orderlies. The sympathy of women would be a good thing to men whose nerves very often have been shattered."

Mr. Hall urged that there should be some supervision of the Red Cross Society, which was at present administered by a number of amateurs who were not sufficiently businesslike in their management.

Sir Frederick Banbury (City of London, U.) thought that a larger number of nurses and doctors should be sent as close to the firing line as possible, and that further hospital accommodation was needed at Boulogne, where, in the case of a sudden influx of wounded, there had been considerable overcrowding.

The Under Secretary of State for War (Mr. Tennant, Berwickshire, L.) replied that there was now an ample supply of nurses at the clearing stations, and some were being held in reserve. They did not get nearer to the firing line than the clearing station. Further accommodation would be utilised in Boulogne if required. The organisation had been greatly improved, but the amount of work was tremendous, the average of wounded arriving there daily being five hundred to six hundred.

Mr. Tennant gave a most reassuring account of the sanitary condition of the British trenches.

The House is adjourned until Tuesday, February 2nd.

ACTIVE SERVICE GIRLS' CADET CORPS.

"THE GIRL AT THE FRONT."

"We have mobilised the soldier for the front in France and Belgium: we must mobilise the girl for the front in Great Britain."
—Katherine M. Harley.

In the absence of our men at the front, more and more responsible work is being done by the women at home. Everyone is needed at this great hour of national danger, and yet the country has hardly realised, or made use of, the great reserves of energy, patriotism, and devotion which are waiting to be used among the younger generation. The girls of this country know that the soldiers are risking and giving their lives in its defence—and theirs. It is natural and right that they should long to do something in return. It is right, too, that their own value as citizens should be realised and used.

Mrs. Harley outlined in our pages (November 13th) an organisation for mobilising these young citizens for the front. Since then, the increasing need for some way of directing their energies has been felt by the girls themselves. The leaders among them—indeed, girls as a whole, we are confident—resent the assumption that they are "all alike" in the flighty and heedless conduct round the camps, of which there has been considerable complaint. These complaints are in many cases well-founded; but we must remember that girls, like other people, are excited by the strain of the war, and their eagerness to help has not, like that of the young men, a clear, obvious way of service. It has run to waste, and it is because it is so valuable and so greatly needed that Mrs. Harley's call to service comes at so welcome a time. It is the young who can help the young, and girls of all classes will, themselves, organised and led by their own officers, find ways innumerable of practical service to the soldiers, the country, and their sisters.

MRS. HARLEY
(Sister of Field Marshal Sir John French), founder of the Active Service Girls' Cadet Corps.

Mrs. Harley's scheme is as follows:—

Name.—The Active Service Girls' Cadet Corps; each Company bearing the name of some celebrated person, such as Florence Nightingale, Joan of Arc, &c.

Companies will be under the leadership of a Captain, Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and four Corporals. In the first instance, all officers will be selected by their Committee—Captains to be over the age of twenty. When the A.S.G.C.C. is well established, then it may be best to elect officers by a vote of the Company. Brigades will be formed of Companies in the same county or district, such as the Metropolitan Brigade, the Manchester Brigade, the Cheshire Brigade, and so on.

Enrolment of Cadets.—All girls between the ages of twelve and twenty, who will pledge themselves to active service, are eligible for enrolment. A medal will be given to each cadet on enrolment and clasps added for special service or proficiency.

Uniform.—To consist of an iron-grey tunic, and a scarf composed of the national colours—red, white, and blue—to be worn across the shoulder, the tunic to be made from a pattern supplied from Headquarters.

Activities and Recreations.—During the winter months a recreation room should, if possible, be opened and a programme arranged for each evening. In summer the activities and work should be carried out in the open-air. Drilling, marching, first aid to the injured, and musical practice, both in band instruments and in singing, will form a large part of the training of cadets. Entertainments will be organised to which the girls' men-friends may be invited. The other activities will include:—

Camp Management, Cooking, Knitting, Sewing, Dancing, Acting, Swimming, Organised Games, &c.

Object.—To band together the girls of Great Britain in Active Service for their country in her hour of need.

Motto.—"Be Strong and Very Courageous."

Organisation.—The management of the Corps will be in the hands of a Central Committee, consisting of members of the N.U. Executive and representatives of other organisations who are willing to co-operate with the A.S.G.C.C. The organisation will be a N.U. organisation in the sense that its constitution, schemes of work and finance, will be subject to the approval of the Executive of the National Union. Local Committees will be formed wherever the A.S.G.C.C. is working, who will act in co-operation with the Central Committee.

Formation.—The Corps will consist of Officers and cadets, who will be formed into companies of not less than twenty or more than forty of all ranks.

All who are interested should write to Mrs. Harley, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Wanted.

Volunteers are wanted to help with recreation rooms at Waterloo, St. John's Wood, and Chelsea. Also games, and wool (khaki or natural) and knitting pins, to enable girls to learn to knit. These may be sent to The Common Cause Office, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi. Patriotic songs and dance music will also be welcome.

"HOW TO DO IT."

A Meeting for Girls.

So many meetings are being arranged for girls that it may be a help to organisers to describe one very ideal meeting held recently (November 19th) in the Dome, Brighton. It was arranged to begin—and it did begin—exactly at 8.30 p.m. The best and most prominent seats were reserved for quite young girls—about twelve to twenty they looked—and the older women sat at the back in the galleries. It is always good that those for whom the meeting is specially organised should be those whom the speaker most easily sees.

The first part of the programme consisted of music and songs. The songs were really good, were not "jingo," and were beautifully sung. Mme. Welling is the ideal singer for such a meeting. There is a quality of sympathy and dramatic feeling in her singing which made "joining in the chorus" a *necessity*. But—and this is an essential thing—she is too perfect a musician to allow the audience to make the chorus a riot! Besides, the girls' clubs had been practising the song beforehand, and though we all sang, none of us yelled. We had the National Anthems, "Tipperary," and "Land of Hope and Glory." We had an excellent band. We enjoyed it all immensely. But when we settled down to listen to the speech, we all knew that the great Russian anthem expressed our feelings much better than, for instance, the more blood-thirsty "Marseillaise." There was only one speech, and before it was given, the band and every male creature left the hall! The ladies who organised the meeting, and the speaker, went on to the platform, and the speech lasted about half-an-hour. I think, myself (and I was the speaker!), that from twenty to twenty-five minutes would be right.

An appeal was made for the League of Honour. We sang "God Save the King," and that was the end.

A. M. R.

A WOMAN MILITARY AVIATOR.

The Princess Shakovsky, who holds a flying certificate from Johannisthal, has been permitted to join General Ruzsky's staff as military aviator. This appears to be the first modern instance of a woman being officially recognised in the army service. The offer of 300 women to form a corps of Amazons was declined by the Tsar.—(*Times*, Dec. 2nd.)

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Lorgnettes.

THE INTOXICATING LIQUORS (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION) ACT (1914).

(*Communicated by Miss Bertha Mason.*)

In response to inquiries, Miss Mason writes :—" This Act, which is a war measure introduced by the Government at the request of the Naval and Military authorities, and passed on August 31st, does not interfere with Section 63 of ' The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910,' which enables any two justices to order the closing of licensed premises when riot or tumult is expected to happen ; but it does give to the licensing justices for any licensing district new and wider powers ' if they think fit, temporarily to restrict the sale, consumption, or supply of intoxicating liquor through licensed premises and clubs.' Such orders may, however, only be made ' upon the recommendation of the chief officer of police that it is desirable for the maintenance of order or the suppression of drunkenness ' in any area, and ' if any such order suspends the sale, supply, or consumption of intoxicating liquor at any hour earlier than nine at night, the order shall not have effect until approved by the Secretary of State.'

" London immediately put the Act into force. Public houses and clubs were prohibited from selling intoxicating liquors after 11 p.m., instead of 12.30 a.m. All night clubs were also closed. In October the hours were still further limited. Many cities and towns in the country as well as London have taken advantage of the new law and have adopted some measure of earlier closing of public-houses.

" Nothing in the Act prescribes, or even suggests, any *special* treatment with regard to women. On the contrary, where the new law is put in force, no distinction is possible. The arrangement not to serve women on licensed premises in London before 11.30 a.m. is based upon a *recommendation* of the Chief Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, arrived at in consultation with certain representatives of the ' Trade,' and it can be carried out only by the general consent of all the licensed trade."

It is an exceedingly difficult technical point, whether these restrictions are or are not legal, and we are still prosecuting inquiries.

We are interested to learn from a writer in one of the organs of the " Trade," that the arrangement for restricting the sale of alcoholic liquor to women was made in order to avoid " *a disastrous probability.*" The threatened disaster seems to have been that the community, in disgust, would demand legislation further restricting the hours of sale, or, conceivably, even prohibiting it altogether. The actual words are : " The arrangement not to serve women before 11.30 a.m. was made by representatives of the trade, who were quite conscious of their responsibilities and who knew both sides of the question. . . . Not to support their action is to court a disastrous probability."

THE AFFILIATION ORDERS ACT (1914).

We are indebted to the Criminal Law Amendment Committee for the following summary of the reforms gained by the passage of the Affiliation Orders Act (1914). The reform has largely been due to the unsparing labours of Miss E. M. Naish, whose name at the foot of articles on this subject is familiar to readers of THE COMMON CAUSE. Miss Naish was quoted as an authority in the debate in Parliament on the Bill.

REFORMS SECURED.

(1) Curtailment of interval between service of summons on the putative father and the hearing of the case. The minimum of six days fixed by the old Bastardy Laws is replaced by the usual regulations for summonses before magistrates, *i.e.*, a reasonable time or a day specified in such summons.—(Section 5 of Act.)

(2) Weekly payments due under an affiliation order to be made, not as heretofore, directly to the mother, but to an officer of the Court, appointed by the Justices of each petty sessional division or borough.

(3) Subsequent legal proceedings when required to enforce payment may be taken by " the Collecting Officer," on the request in writing of the mother. [Section I. (3)]

(4) Should the father be in receipt of " any pension or income," in case of wilful default on his part, the weekly amount due under the affiliation order may be deducted from the pension or income by means of an attachment order issued by the Justices. [Section II.]

(5) As a further security for payment, the father is bound to notify his change of address to the collecting officer, under penalty of a fine not exceeding £2. [Section IV.]

By the terms of the Act, absolute freedom is left to the magistrates as to the choice of the person to be appointed as " Collecting Officer." In the circular, however, issued to Magistrates' Clerks by the Home Office, notifying the operation of the new Act, a strongly worded suggestion is made that the office shall be filled by the Magistrate's Clerk himself.

Clause 2 of the original Bill, lost in the House of Commons, provided that employers should be required to deduct the weekly payments due under affiliation orders from the wages of their employees named in the Orders. A similar provision has been already worked in New Zealand with satisfactory results.—(New Zealand Legislation—Destitute Persons, 1910.)

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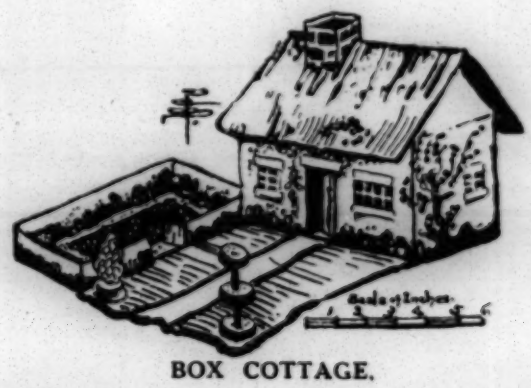
TOYS AND TOY-MAKING.

NATIONAL UNION HELPS TO START A NEW INDUSTRY.

One of the direct results of the war and the consequent stoppage of trade with Germany, has been the slow and somewhat painful realisation of the many industries which have been taken from us by that country. In the meantime, it has been the aim of many of the women's organisations to start again the toy-making industry and to teach it to women and girls thrown out of employment by the war. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies have done excellent work in this direction, and the toys they have created are to be seen at 50, Parliament Street. These toys range from all prices. The chief criticism levelled against English toys is that the price is too high, and here a great difficulty lies. Practically all the toys are made by hand. Teaching the unskilled makes it necessarily a slow process, and last, but not least, owing to lack of capital, any large initial outlay is impossible. Thus, all toys have to be made in small quantities, which naturally increases their price. Such conditions will, of course, be improved in time, but it must be our aim to fall in as much as possible with the general view and endeavour to manufacture the cheaper toy as well as the more expensive one.

In making toys, grown-ups too often forget that they are catering for the childish mind, and what appeals to them will not necessarily be regarded in the same light of favour by the small person for whom they are intended. The primary object of a toy is to amuse and interest a child, and to encourage it to "play" with it. Thus, those toys are most successful which make a strong appeal to the imagination, and should be chosen to this end. For instance, a very elaborate toy of mechanical device may appeal to a grown-up as ingenious, but will probably fail to appeal to children, as it would be difficult to play with and leaves nothing to the imagination, with which faculty, it must be remembered, the childish mind is largely endowed.

Of the many toys to be obtained from the N.U.W.S.S. the most successful is undoubtedly the "Box Cottage." This is a charming little box with a painted exterior which converts into a house, and from its inner depths come forth a folded roof with a cardboard rafter to keep it in shape, a green lawn, crossed by a garden path which runs from the centre door. The lid either forms the walled garden adjoining the house, or may be put at the end of the path to face the house, while two tiny trees complete the whole plot. This attractive toy, originated by Miss Colman Smith, sells at 1s. (post free, 1s. 3d.) and is most popular. Other cheap toys are to be found in tiny dolls' cots, charmingly trimmed in lace and silk, of very minute size at 4½d. A pretty band box at 1s., containing a Paris hat and veil is another dainty addition to dolly's requisites. A useful gift for a baby, in that it won't break and is quite innocuous to suck, is a white pig, gaily dressed in a coloured cotton frock, which sells at 1s. 6d. Two more charming toys are the doll's outfit and the Red Cross outfit. The first is an undressed doll which lies in a prettily fitted oblong box, while her clothes—a petticoat, pink dress, shoes, &c.—are neatly cut out with directions pinned on them where and how they are to be sewn. A tiny thimble, pair of scissors, cotton, buttons, &c., are also included. This has the advantage of being an excellent way of teaching girls how to sew. The Red Cross outfit shows a doll in a very businesslike night-shirt, with pillows, red cross blanket, and stretcher, while additions, such as splints, bandages, ointment, dressings, &c., are variously fitted up. Many other toys are to be seen, and all have been evolved with a view to best pleasing the youthful mind. There are already many orders for these toys, and it is to be hoped that it will be possible to employ still more workers in their manufacture.



BOX COTTAGE.

Toy-making would seem an ideal occupation for women and girls, for apart from the charm of the work, there is pleasure and entertainment to be found in creating new ideas for toys. Most women have an inbred love of children which should enable them to be in complete understanding and sympathy with them and their requirements, and this should be a factor in helping them in the art of toy-making.

If one may be allowed a general criticism, it is that there seems to be a tendency to make *ugly* toys for children. It is surely wrong that a child should be allowed to grow accustomed to ugliness or misproportion in anything, and we have of late years had a strong futurist touch in the toys we have given to children, beginning probably with the Golliwog through a line of similar atrocities. The principal defence is, of course, that it is much easier to make an ugly doll than a pretty one, and, perhaps, that may be at present a sufficient explanation, but let it be at least a temporary one.

Although the teaching of toy-making in England has been principally taken up in order to give employment to women and girls who have felt the pinch of war, it is greatly to be hoped that the industry will survive the period of war; that the beginnings now made may lead to a larger enterprise; and that soon we may have the satisfaction of seeing a flourishing toy trade re-established in our country, and that we have been at least partly instrumental in winning back one of the lost industries of Great Britain.

WORK FOR EDUCATED WOMEN.

At a Conference held at the Mansion House last week, with regard to unemployment among women in the City, it was decided to form a small sub-committee to help the Lord Mayor to reach employers, in order to put the question before them of taking on some of the clerical workers who have been thrown out by the war. The Hon. Maude Pauncefote spoke in regard to emigration, and a special offer made by Australia, and Miss Mary Macarthur spoke on the City Scheme for helping women clerks and secretaries.

Meanwhile, a special arrangement has been made by the Central Committee for Women's Employment, whereby paid women clerks are to be supplied to assist at the Branch Offices of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. The workers are being selected by the Central Committee in conjunction with the Labour Exchanges from among clerical workers unemployed through the war. In London alone, over 100 clerical workers will be employed in this way. They will be paid at the rate of 9d. an hour in the case of the more experienced workers, and 6d. an hour for the junior clerks, and will assist in the clerical work involved in distributing allowances to the dependents of Soldiers and Sailors. The clerks will be employed for five weeks, so that the arrears of work may be made up. It is not possible at present to tell whether the pressure on the divisions will be relaxed after that time, but it is anticipated that some further assistance may be needed.

LONDON GIRLS FOR AUSTRALIA.

Over 100 business girls came to the Imperial Institute on Saturday afternoon to hear from the British Women's Emigration Association of Australia's offer to the Queen. They were invited to consider the invitation from four States to take them to Australia for £1, on the condition that they entered domestic service for one year. They would really go for nothing, for the Central Committee on Women's Employment has recommended that the £1 shall be paid from the Queen's "Work for Women" Fund, and another £1 be given to the girls on landing. Not until they were in situations would they be expected to return the balance of a greatly reduced fare. In most cases this would be £2, and it would be paid in monthly instalments.

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Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

WAR AND PEACE.

Madam,—We have all heard a great deal about the virtues that war "engenders"—devotion, self-sacrifice, courage, not least cheerfulness—but we are apt to forget that war does not create these virtues; it merely brings into the lime-light that which in time of peace lives on unknown and unpraised. But are there no vices that war, if not engenders, at least intensifies and multiplies? What of lust, and cruelty, and greed, hatred and bitterness, "jingoism," narrow pride of race, failure to realise the common humanity of the nations? Are not these children whom the War-God recognises? I would be the last to credit every story of "atrocities" in war with which the newspapers regale us; but without instancing any "atrocities," and contenting myself merely with the "necessary consequences" of international strife, let me point to the condition of Belgium to-day, and ask your correspondent if she can conscientiously declare that war is the mother of all the virtues? If it be argued that the conquered gain through their baptism of fire, I would ask merely, what of the victors?

There is another point to be remembered, one of very practical importance. Even those who see in war a great incentive to noble action and high endeavour will hardly deny that, from the point of view of eugenics, war is an unmitigated evil. It ensures only the survival of the most unfit. Alfred de Musset, in his wonderful "Confession d'un Enfant du Siècle," draws a haunting picture of the effete and bloodless generation that was the outcome of the Napoleonic wars, offspring of those men only who were not physically fit for "cannon-fodder," sole survivors when the flower of the nation had perished.

But your correspondent continues, "Death in defence of high ideals is a fine thing, not a sin." Granted; but will she tell me for what high ideal Great Britain, or any other country, is fighting in this war? The immediate cause is, of course, the defence of the neutrality of Belgium, the succour of a "smaller nation." But if it were not to England's interest, as it undoubtedly is, to enter the fray as the defender of Belgium, would the defence of a "smaller nation" appear so pressing a need? Since the rulers of Germany being apparently bent on war, England would certainly have been dragged in sooner or later, it was obviously to her interest to move with France and Russia, instead of waiting until her allies were vanquished, and so laying herself open to speedy annihilation at the hands of Kaiserdom. Nations do not fight for high ideals; they fight because it is to their interest to do so. Through all the ages men have found no better way of settling international disputes but this horror of war. Surely it is up to women to find a better way.

Jessie Brodie.

Madam,—Will some of those writers in The Common Cause who are advocating peace at any price kindly descend to details and say on what terms England and her Allies should now be prepared to approach Germany with the object of making peace, and what guarantees should be considered sufficient to insure that the terms made should be kept and not treated as was the neutrality agreement with Belgium?

C. H. Archer-Shepherd.

WAR AND THE BIRTH-RATE.

In connection with "Hugo's" letter in our last issue, we are asked to quote the following paragraph from Dr. Stephen Wise's message to "The Woman's Journal" (Boston, U.S.A.):—

"I believe that Woman Suffrage—that is to say, woman's entire participation in the affairs of government—would not only render wars less frequent, but make war impossible. Women bear the last and most terrible cost of war. It is women who must go down into the hell of agony in order to give children to life, and their children are asked for war and compelled to go to battle without mothers and wives ever being consulted as to the rightness or the need of war. . . . If I were asked to name the crowning infamy of this war, I should mention not the destruction of Louvain nor the battering of the Rheims Cathedral, but the attitude of European governments in urging men to wed as a matter of patriotic duty before setting forth to join their armies. This is done in the interest of a high birth-rate by governments which are wholly indifferent to the highest death-rate. I cannot conceive of any more awful insult that could be offered to womanhood than to invite women nominally to wed, but actually to permit themselves to be converted into breeding machines.

"There are sacrifices which the world may ask of women—and women have a genius for sacrificing themselves. But this is not to ask a sacrifice of woman. This is to ask her to immolate her body and to sink the highest and holiest instincts of womanhood at the bidding of ruthless war."

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

Madam,—Mrs. Rackham asks in your issue of last week "Why should a young and able-bodied woman be entirely dependent on the State for the rest of her life as if she was a helpless being, incapable of wage-earning?" How far does Mrs. Rackham push this question? Does she think that the pensions of officers' widows should be reduced below the maintenance line? If not why not? Of course if we take the view, which is clearly Mr. Asquith's view, that there is something contrary to human nature in the spectacle of a woman of the working class who is not compelled to seek a living from an employer, we can understand why a woman in the professional class is entitled to such maintenance under conditions under which a woman in the working classes has no such claim. Such a view is natural in those whose attachment to the inequalities of sex is associated with an attachment to the inequalities of class. But I hope that among us who think of the inequalities of sex as hateful and indefensible, there are many who feel that if two women have made the same great sacrifice for the State,

those two women should not be treated on fundamentally different principles because they belong to different classes.

J. L. HAMMOND.

SUPERVISION OF SOLDIERS' WIVES.

MADAM,—I was so upset and nearly roused to militantism by your reference to police supervision of soldiers' dependents in THE COMMON CAUSE of the 13th inst., that I indignantly alluded to the action of the Government in enforcing this supervision in a letter to a friend. Briefly, I endorsed your opinion. This is what my friend replies: "I want to console you as to the way things are done in *Exeter*—I don't know about other places—as to the "supervision by the police." It is *only* the women who drink away their money and *keep their houses open to soldiers* who are thus supervised. The steady, honest, good ones were left quite alone and unnoticed; *their* houses are never visited by the police. . . ."

I have not seen the text of the "order," but could not the words "police supervision *where necessary*" if not inserted be taken in other localities to be *understood*?

We women of England want the machinery at home to *run smooth*, for who knows in what lies victory to our arms abroad?

F. R. M. FURSDON.

[*We are informed that the War Office has issued to paymasters instructions about the forwarding of index-cards, on which must appear full particulars about the recipients of allowances, to the chief constables of their town or district. This does not seem to apply to gross offenders only, but to all recipients of allowances.*—ED., "C.C."]

WIVES AND DEPENDENTS OF SOLDIERS.

A BIRMINGHAM CORRESPONDENT writes:—

It is pleasant to record that in Birmingham the authorities have rejected the infamous proposal to place the wives of soldiers under police control as if they were suspicious characters.

In connection with this, and with a less satisfactory decision to close the public-houses before 11.30 to women but not to men, Mrs. Osler (President of the Birmingham Society for Women's Suffrage) summoned a meeting of representatives of all the local Suffrage Societies, at which the following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting most cordially approves the action of the Birmingham authorities and the Chief of Police in their firm rejection of the recent proposal to place the wives and dependents of soldiers under police surveillance. Further, while recognising with appreciation the intention of the Licensing Magistrates to diminish the temptations to excessive drinking by curtailing the hours of sale of intoxicants, this meeting wishes to point out that such restriction, though desirable in itself, when applied to women *only*, seriously infringes the principle of sex equality hitherto recognised in municipal administration."

The Suffrage Societies represented were:—The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, The Church League for Women's Suffrage, The Friends' League for Women's Suffrage, The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, The Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, The Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society.

THE WHITE WOMAN'S BURDEN.

MADAM,—The article in last week's issue on "The White Woman's Burden" is of special interest to those who have had experience of social work in India. The writer speaks warmly of the work of the Young Women's Christian Association throughout that Empire and quite truly remarks that it is wretchedly supported from England. The further remark that in India the Association has become practically an American organisation is not so true. There is a larger number of British than of American secretaries giving their lives to the work in India. What I wish to emphasize however is the undoubted truth that India could do with any number of able and competent women for social work in the Anglo-Indian community and—most important—amongst the Indian women students whose lives are beset with difficulties and pitfalls. "Wretchedly supported from England" adequately describes the situation, and if it were possible to get the women in England, who have so much at heart for the feminist movement, to realize the enormous importance of this work, we would, I am quite convinced, more adequately meet our great responsibilities in India.

The old story—women and money are our need; most of our workers in the great cities of India are breaking down from overwork. It is the call of the Empire. Many are inclined to think that during this time of strain and anxiety in England work in distant lands must suffer, but for us it is a time to press forward; it is impossible at this time to do less than heretofore for the women folk of those very men who have come to the great battlefields of Europe to help us in our hour of need. We would like to have the means to send out three experienced workers to India before the new year, women under the age of thirty-five. Is it quite useless to hope that the means and the women may come from the ranks of those who, having the women's movement at heart, realise it is a world movement and are willing to leave the homeland for the cause of women in non-Christian lands.

E. PICTON-TURBERVILL.
National Head, Foreign Department, Y.W.C.A.
26, George Street, Hanover Square.

FLORENCE C. HODGSON writes:—"How can we organise the realm of mind so that individual minds shall feel in unity with the body politic? Ruskin's advice to working men was, that they make themselves worthy and able to form their own Parliament. Would it be possible for Trades Unions and all other unions to elect delegates for the purpose of preparing a well-considered democratic peace treaty which shall be ready for the cessation of hostilities?"

A correspondent asks us to say, in answer to Miss Turquand's query, that a Committee has been formed, in connection with *Le Cri de Londres* (60, Marsham Street), to investigate charges of cruelty against the German troops.

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

To All Who Have Suffered.

A plea for help comes before us in *The Englishwoman* of this month, in an article entitled "Chloroform." We desire to bring it before our readers also. Miss Lowndes writes that there is a serious shortage of anæsthetics for French soldiers. We have only to hear this to realise what a world of suffering—preventible suffering—is implied. Here are her words: "We learn with horror that there is practically no chloroform to be had in the country, that all anæsthetics are terribly scarce, and that telegrams reach London from hospital after hospital daily imploring that some antiseptic dressings if possible may be sent them, as the number required is so immeasurably large." We do not need to harrow the feelings of our readers by more than a brief appeal to them for help. In all the suffering of war, as of other great disasters, it is better to turn one's emotion into thought, one's pity into action, as far as possible. Only in this way is it possible to remain sane, and without great sanity our work of help and reconstruction will never be well done. Let us then, whatever we have done and given already, give again now, and freely. The men who come wounded from the trenches to the hospital, come not only wounded in body but, necessarily, strained to the utmost in nerve. Many of us, surely, have "in our own flesh experienced the blessings of anæsthesia," and marvelled at the nerve of patients and surgeons alike who must perforce in former times have faced operations without it. More still have thanked God for the merciful anæsthetic which saved those they loved from physical torment. Let all such go without something now in order to send some of our supply here—which is reported to be ample—to those who are suffering for lack of it in France. Frenchwomen have not 300,000 soldiers to care for, as we have, but 3,000,000, and while they make incredible sacrifices, there remains more than they can do. If we can do it, let us get to work. *The Englishwoman* asks for subscriptions to be sent to their office, Dewar House, 11, Haymarket, W.

Our Treaty Obligations in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Problems of War and Peace will be discussed in THE COMMON CAUSE *in a series of articles by well-known writers. Contributors are left free to express their own opinions, as we believe it to be in the public interest that such questions should be freely discussed. The articles will all be signed and must not be assumed to represent the official views of the N.U.W.S.S.*

It must be said, in the first place, that the obligation involved in a treaty is not the same as that involved in a private person's contract or promise. The private person may reasonably bind himself and his successors in title to any duty, however onerous. But a treaty in essence is an arrangement between the statesmen of one generation which cannot be regarded as binding for an indefinite time, not only upon their nationals of their own generation, but of all who shall thereafter be born, irrespective of changes in interest, in political strength, and in moral standards. To assert that any treaty, however solemn, shall be for ever binding is to claim the right to impose burdens upon posterity which posterity would regard as unnecessary, absurd, or positively wrong.

The clause in the treaty which ended the Crimean War, which prohibited Russia from ever putting warships upon the Black Sea, was a restriction of her sovereign rights which was repudiated a generation later with universal consent, and every provision of every treaty must be regarded as subject to the possibility of revision in altered circumstances. The manner of the revision is, of course, immensely important. There is all the difference in the world between a violent, single-handed repudiation, and an open, peaceable attempt to procure the consent of others to a change. Russia's denunciation of the Black Sea clause, like Austria's formal annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was wrong, not because there was anything vicious in the thing itself, but because it was done in an egoistic, overbearing way, without consulting the other parties to the agreement which it upset.

It is in the light of these general principles that our own obligations to Belgium and Luxembourg must be considered. Upon the strict letter of the treaties concerned it would be superfluous, as well as unwise, to lay too much stress. The circumstances, geographical and political, of the two countries, their natural relations with ourselves, apart from treaty, and declarations made by responsible statesmen, subsequently as well as at the date of the treaties, must all be considered before we can determine our moral obligations. Both the States in question were created after the Napoleonic Wars. The Congress of Vienna, of notorious memory, allotted them both to the King of Holland, in order to strengthen him against France. Discontent with the Dutch yoke produced a revolt in Belgium, which obtained its independence in 1830. After prolonged negotiations for a transfer of Luxembourg to the new State, a compromise was reached in 1839, and the famous treaties were concluded, the Belgian provisions repeating those of an earlier treaty of 1831. The parties to the treaties were Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, and the two States themselves. The treaties provided that the two States should be independent and perpetually neutral, and the contracting Powers "guaranteed" their independence.

Both States became the subject of subsequent treaties. Luxembourg was made a pawn in the game between Napoleon III. and Bismarck, and shortly before the Franco-German War Napoleon scored a diplomatic success there. Luxembourg had entered the German Zollverein in 1842, its capital city had retained its fortification, and a Prussian garrison was stationed there. Baffled in his attempt to procure its cession from the King of Holland, Napoleon insisted on the withdrawal of the Prussian garrison. A new treaty was drawn up, "guaranteeing" the independence and neutrality of Luxembourg, in terms perhaps more stringent than those of the earlier treaty, and to this Great Britain was again a party. But immediately after the execution of this treaty of 1867, Lord Derby, our Foreign Secretary, declared that it did not bind Great Britain to go to war single-handed for the defence of Luxembourg. The guarantee was to be enforced jointly, or not at all. For this statement Bismarck never forgave Lord Derby, but it put it upon record at once that Great Britain did not regard it as her duty to defend Luxembourg against all the world. Whatever the possible breach of good faith with Bismarck, there can be no serious argument from the assumption that the Luxembourgers relied upon Great Britain, or looked to her as their protector, any more than they looked to Russia. In blood they were akin to the Belgian Walloons, but in political sympathies they were more German than anything else, and, as has already been stated, were, for the purposes of customs revenue, incorporated in the German organisation.

The Belgians were in very different case. Neither geographically nor politically had they any intimate connection with Germany, and their sympathies, commercial relations apart, were with France and Holland rather than with their Eastern neighbour. To the Luxembourgers annexation by Germany meant little more than a sentimental change. To the Belgians it meant an outrage against this separate and individual civilisation. A violation of the Belgian treaty would have been a much graver moral injury on the part of Germany than a violation of the Luxembourg treaty. For protection Belgium looked partly to the mutual jealousy of France and Germany, but especially to Great Britain. The position of Great Britain was therefore morally different in the two cases. In one there was no special confidence in her, in the other that special confidence existed. During the Franco-Prussian War Belgium showed how much she trusted to her maritime protector. A treaty was made for the time of the war only, by which Great Britain was bound to go to war for the maintenance of Belgian independence, if it were violated by either France or Germany, and this treaty was declared to be in addition to and not in substitution for that of 1839, the obligations of which were to continue after the war.

Belgium thus received an express renewal of her old promise from Great Britain, in such circumstances as would reasonably lead her to suppose that the same help would be furnished whenever it was again required. Great Britain was thus peculiarly bound to fulfil her promise to Belgium, in the letter, and to make war on her behalf, if necessary, single-handed. Since the building of strategic railways by Germany, and the publication of plans of campaign by German military authorities has shown that Germany would almost certainly violate the independence of Belgium in the case of another war with France, and since, in view of these threats, we have never formally repudiated our obligations, there can be no doubt that we should have been guilty of a breach of faith if we had not declared war in August.

There is one other circumstance which distinguishes the cases of Belgium and Luxembourg. Not only was the trust in us different in kind and in degree, but the geographical circumstances were, and, of course, remain, entirely different. Whatever the words of a treaty may be, no State can be held bound to do something which nature renders impossible. It is conceivable, for instance, that Switzerland should be a party to some maritime treaty. But no one would suggest that if one or more of the other parties, some South American Republic, for instance, should break its word, Switzerland should thereupon be bound to send a fleet to punish the wrong-doer. In the same way, Great Britain cannot be held to be the policeman of Europe in purely Continental affairs. If Germany chose to annex Luxembourg, Great Britain might destroy Germany's commerce and her fleet, and perhaps after years of preparation, land an army on her shores. The one thing which she could never do, would be to expel the particular German troops who had established themselves in the heart of the appropriated territory. Only France has the power to do that. Neither Russia nor Austria, by the utmost injury that they could inflict on Germany, could single-handed keep the German soldiers out of Luxembourg.

The case of Belgium is entirely different. The offended State is at our own door, our overwhelming Navy keeps the communications open, and we can pour a steady stream of men into the fighting line to keep the enemy out, or to drive him out after he has entered. There can be no comparison between a promise made by one of several States, which that State separately, for physical reasons, cannot perform, and a similar promise made when there are no natural obstacles to its complete execution. The first, the moral distinction, in fact depends upon the second, the geographical distinction. It is because the Luxembourgers have always known that we could not protect them, that they have not expected us to do it. It is because the Belgians have known that we could protect them, that they have expected us to do it.

W. LYON BLEASE.

[Next week:—"The British Cause," by H. M. Swanwick.]

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Rev. THOMAS PHILLIPS, B.A.
Special Hymns. Prayers from the Collegium.

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Reviews.

PRACTICAL TOWN PLANNING. By J. S. Nettlefold. (St. Catherine Press. 2s.)

Practical Town Planning is a work which no one interested in the problem of the housing of the people can afford to be without. It deals lucidly and in comparatively brief space with a problem admittedly complicated and contentious. In order that the reader should be able to master the gist of the argument with the least possible expenditure of time and trouble, most of the purely technical matter has been relegated to appendices. Since most of the writer's work has been done in Birmingham it is natural that many of the illustrations of his principles should be taken from that city, but the book is concerned with the problem of housing generally, rural as well as urban. Mr. Nettlefold never loses sight of the obvious but too often neglected principle that the great aim of town planning is to improve the living conditions of the people. It can hardly fail to occur to every Suffragist reader that this aim has in the past been grievously obscured, largely through the inability of women to express their point of view on the subject. If women's place is the home, it is clear that she should have a say in the problem of its construction.

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION. By F. Clement C. Egerton. (G. Bell & Sons.)

Mr. Egerton is an enthusiast on behalf of the type of education associated with the names of Mr. Holmes and his "Egeria," Miss Finlay-Johnson. He is a severe and convincing critic of our elementary school system; it is wooden, dead, completely out of touch with the realities of life and it is extremely expensive. His book puts before us admirably the case for a thorough reconstruction of primary education on what may be called vocational lines; but by "vocational education" Mr. Egerton means something very different from the trade instruction demanded by some employers in the belief that it would supply them with cheap skilled labour. Mr. Egerton advocates the introduction into schools for normal children of the system of self-government which has worked with such astonishing success among the young "criminals" of the George Junior Republics in the States and of the Little Commonwealth in our own country. It goes without saying that Mr. Egerton is a believer in the principles of Signora Montessori, but he is by no means blindly uncritical of her methods. The book contains a short chapter dealing sensibly with the question of education and sex. The only criticism which we have to offer is that insufficient stress is laid upon the gross anomaly which permits the great majority of the nation's children to consider themselves "educated" at the age of fourteen, or in some districts of thirteen years. *The Future of Education* is a book which every Suffragist should make a point of reading.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING. By N. B. Dearle, M.A. (King. 10s. 6d.)

In this volume Mr. Dearle goes thoroughly into the question of how our boys learn their trades, and why so many do not learn a trade. It is to be hoped that he will soon produce a second volume in which he will deal equally thoroughly with the industrial training of girls, which, he is aware, "is no less urgent and equally needs investigation." After showing the evils which arise from the present want of system, he puts forward suggestions for the organisation of boy labour, compulsory attendance at Continuation Schools, involving control over the boys by the Education Authorities and Juvenile Branches of the Labour Exchanges up to the age of eighteen, reduction of the hours of labour to a maximum of forty-eight per week, and a minimum wage of 5s. The book should be read by all who are interested in Care Committee work.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN WAGE EARNERS. (Women's Industrial Council. 6d.)

A booklet containing summary tables on the occupations of women. It will come as a surprise to many people to learn that there are as many as 182,493 British "women" between the ages of ten and fifteen working for wages. Of these 62,373 are in the textile trade on the half-time system, while many of these children are engaged in domestic work, in mines and quarries, in commercial and agricultural work, as well as in various other occupations. The number of women engaged in work other than household duties, is given as—unmarried, 3,739,532; married, 680,191; widowed, 411,011, and the number of women over seventy-five years of age as 17,727. The book shows clearly the number of women engaged in the various industries and the inroads made by women in commercial occupations during the last ten years.

WHEAT AND WOMAN. By Georgina Binnie Clark. (Heinemann. 6s.)

Miss Binnie Clark's account of her experiences of farming in Canada will be read with interest by women intending to emigrate. Women are handicapped in farming by the fact that they are refused the free Government grant of 160 acres offered to suitable men settlers, so that they have the weight of extra payment thrust upon them at the very outset. But Miss Clark considers that even so, farming on the prairie "worked on a well-thought-out plan, is a practical, and should be a highly profitable means of independence and wealth for women, as it has always proved for men." She herself made many mistakes, in the course of her experiment, which she describes in detail, in order that others may profit by her experience:—

"Having arrived myself at the place where I knew how to succeed, through having learned what to avoid, in farming on the prairie, it seemed to me that through the untidy gap I had made in scrambling through a blind fence to get that knowledge, others would make a gate if they once realised that what men had done for themselves in agricultural pursuits on the prairie women could also do for themselves."

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

THE N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

The French Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospital leaves London for France this week. We regret that a report of the start cannot appear till next week, as we go to press on Wednesday afternoon. The *personnel* of the two Units is as follows :—

FRENCH HOSPITAL UNIT.

Physicians:—Dr. Deborah Hancock and Dr. Berry.
Surgeons:—Dr. Ivens, Dr. Ross, Dr. Ruth Nicholson.
X Ray Expert:— Dr. Savill.
Nurses:— Misses Laurence, Conley, Jean Maxwell, Connell, Hogarth, Bedwell, Robertson, Florence Roberts, Mary Gray, Milne.
Dressers:—Dr. Heyworth and Misses J. Gemwell, Duncan, Helga Gill, Gray, Henderson, Osmond Williams, Fairlie.
Cooks:—Misses Swanston and Littlejohn.
Administrator:—Mrs. Owen.
Clerk:—Miss Cicely Hamilton.

SERVIAN HOSPITAL UNIT.

Surgeon:—Dr. Holway, Temperance Hospital, Hampstead, London, N.W.
Physician:— Dr. Soltau, Maltings Farm Sanatorium, Hayland, Colchester.
J. Surgeon:—Dr. A. Campbell.
J. Physicians:—Dr. K. Macphail and Dr. Wakefield.
Nurses:—Misses M. A. Macdonald (Matron), Mellen, Isabella Mitchell, Janet Reid, K. M. Barr, M. Fraser, I. Horn, Holway, Adamson, Boykett, Jordan.
Dressers:—Misses Neil Fraser, A. M. Hunter, Sheperd, Lucy Smith, F. McLeod, Louise Fraser.
X Ray:—Miss Macdougal, Bruntsfield Hospital, Edinburgh.
Cooks:—Misses E. Patrick and Ford.
Orderlies:—Mr. William Smith and Mr. D. Camfield.
Clerk:—Miss Douglas Irvine.
Wardmaids:—Misses Perry and M. Hutchison.

CLUB FOR WORKING WOMEN.

The Marylebone Branch of the London Society is about to open a Club for working women at the Portland Institute, Riding House-street, near Oxford Circus. The Club will be open every week-day from 2—10 p.m., and will provide rest and recreation for the women. Books, stationery, mending materials and also refreshments at low prices will be supplied, and there will be a nursery for the children. It is hoped to be able to provide at least two entertainments weekly.

Gifts of money will be most gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Stephens, 102, Clarence Gate Gardens, London, while Miss Elkin, Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, W., will be very glad of offers of help and also of furniture.

W. LANCS., W. CHESHIRE, AND N. WALES.

At present the W. LANCS., W. CHESHIRE, AND N. WALES FEDERATION is sunning itself in popular approval by running relief work with smoothness and efficiency.

The LIVERPOOL W.S.S., its work amongst the soldiers' and sailors' families, and its organisation for unemployed women, needs no notice here. Nor does the workroom, opened for straitened needlewomen, which claims the attention of the BIRKENHEAD Suffrage Society.

CHESHIRE Suffragists, whilst working the Mayoress bureau for receiving and distributing old and new clothes for soldiers, sailors, and refugees, are turning their surplus energies towards supplying sewing for distressed dressmakers.

PRESTON W.S.S. has drawn up a scheme for maternity and infancy relief, but the Hon. Sec. reports that Preston looks with suspicion on anything but sewing!

WARRINGTON occupies itself with refugees and wounded, and keeps itself mentally alive with W.E.A. lectures on "The Countries at War"—lest it forget!

SEAFORTH AND WATERLOO W.S.S., under its able President from South Africa, Mrs. Le G. Solly, formed weekly working parties at Seaforth Hall for equipping Lady Barr's base hospital, and also helped to furnish a house for Belgians. The Seaforth Society, in its emergency leaflet, specially asks its members not to undertake work voluntarily for which Government usually pays, and also not to relieve individual cases, but to report to local Committee.

SOUTHPORT W.S.S., under the local Health Committee, has initiated a Mother and Children's Aid, which is working with the Women's Co-operative Guild.

At the suggestion of the Lady Mayoress of Cardiff, Welsh Suffragists were asked to collect funds to endow a bed (cost £250) for the Welsh Military Hospital, the bed to be named the Women's Suffrage Bed, and to be kept up for the period of the war. In a few weeks more than the required sum was offered, of which £41 14s. 6d. came from the N. Wales Suffrage Societies.

At BANGOR the Suffragists are, of course, very numerous on the various relief associations, and we may note that at the meeting of the Mayoress' Work Guild, Bangor Suffragists have urged and secured the distribution of work for payment at fair rates.

COLWYN BAY W.S.S. has opened an Inquiry and Information Bureau for cases of hard hit apartment-letting householders—a class which does not come under the notice of the usual relief agencies.

CRICCIETH W.S.S. has contributed the whole of its year's subscriptions, £6 7s. 8d., to the Queen's Work for Women Fund.

Dr. ALICE HUTCHISON

(Of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital), who has preceded the unit to make arrangements, and is already in France.

LLANDUDNO Suffragists, with the Woman Citizens, have undertaken the housing of sixty Belgian refugees, in addition to other work.

Members of the LLANGOLLEN W.S.S., whilst serving on several sub-committees (the badge of all our tribe at present!), have their own group within the local Working Guild, and at the Thursday knitting parties for the soldiers, read aloud the "Life of Florence Nightingale"—a good suggestion for other knitters. And after Florence Nightingale there are other books, say, "The Emancipation of Englishwomen" (Lyon Blease), or Olive Schreiner's "Woman and Labour," would give food for thought and talk at work time, and at tea time.

WREXHAM W.S.S. has canvassed its borough from house to house (brave Wrexham) for weekly subscriptions for its Belgian refugees, which it now duly gathers in.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.

A "Maternity Centre and Babies Welcome" has been started for Wallasey on the initiative of the Wallasey and Wirral Women's Suffrage Society, in co-operation with the Women's Citizen Association, the Women's Co-operative Guild, and other Women's Societies in the district. The Medical Officer of Health is actively helping the Centre. The simple furniture necessary for starting the work (in rooms kindly left by the Oakdale Mission) was given in response to an appeal made by the Sec. of the Suffrage Society at their annual meeting. The lady nurse, who is a member of the Suffrage Society, has kindly given her services voluntarily, and an excellent band of workers has been secured. In spite of a very heavy rain storm nine babies arrived on the opening day, and one mother, anxious for help, came without her baby, which is to be brought to the next meeting.

RICHMOND SOCIETY.

On November 24th, at the annual meeting of the Richmond Branch of the London Society, it was unanimously resolved to become an independent society affiliated to the National Union, under the title "Richmond Women's Suffrage Society." During the year, thirty-five new members were made, bringing the membership up to 126 and between seventy and eighty "Friends" were enrolled. The Society held fourteen meetings and took a share in three others. Since the outbreak of the war, it has been busy starting a Day Nursery, for which the National Union kindly lent the services of Miss Burrell Frost; a sum of £135 was raised by the Branch and the Nursery is now launched with an admirable matron. On the Richmond Committee of Organised Women, which is "recognised" by the Emergency Committee for the relief and prevention of unemployment among women, Mrs. Bailey, Hon. Sec., and Mrs. Swanwick, Chairman of the Richmond Society, sit as representatives of the Society, Mrs. Swanwick being Hon. Sec. of the C.O.W. Curiously enough, at least ten other members of the C.O.W. are also members of the Suffrage Society, while several more are members of other Suffrage Societies. This is all the more remarkable, because the C.O.W. was formed of representatives of all the organised bodies of women in Richmond, thus proving our constant contention that organised women are nearly all Suffragists.

KINGSTON.

In a time when the young and vigorous manhood of the nation is suffering daily diminishments in number, the most effective method of keeping up the strength and working-power of the nation is to look to the up-bringing of the coming generation. In Kingston many mothers go out to work all day, and are forced to get a neighbour to take care of the children who are under five years old—the minimum age for the board schools. The usual rate of payment for this is 6d. a day—which does not include food—while the "looking after" is often somewhat indifferent.

The local Suffrage society, therefore, conceived the idea of a small school for these children. It serves the double purpose of relieving the mothers, and of providing the children, free of charge, with good nourishment and adequate occupations. The Children's House is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Here, under a qualified Montessori Directress, a number of voluntary helpers devote their time and energy to this work. It has already been running eight weeks, and is entirely supported by the voluntary contributions of the Suffrage society and their friends. Any further information would be most willingly given, and any offers of help in money, food, or clothing for the children, most gladly welcomed by Miss M. Fanner, Hon. Sec., Kingston and Surbiton Branch of the London Society, "Melrose," Anglesea-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

THE "COMMON CAUSE."

Our next issues will contain articles on "The British Cause," by Mrs. Swanwick; "Arbitration and Conciliation," by Mr. Lawes Dickinson; "Disarmament," by Mr. J. A. Hobson, and articles on National Service. Other articles will be on "The Reform of Public Houses," "Women Police," by Sir Victor Horsley, and "The Case for Prohibition," by Mr. D. B. MacLaren.

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Every "COMMON CAUSE" reader should **call at our Showroom** or write for Book describing "Benduble" Specialities, which also include Outdoor Boots and Shoes, Slippers, Overshoes, Gaiters, Stockings, Boot Trees, &c. It contains all you want to know about real footwear comfort.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS K. D. COURTNEY.
MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary).
MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH.

Secretary:
MISS CROOKENDEN.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1980 Victoria.

Distribution of Clothing.

We shall be very grateful for more gifts of clothing for women and children in distress. We are receiving many requests from the Care Committees for warm garments, and are coming rather to the end of our stock. We need especially women's underclothing and children's clothes of every kind.

Last week we had a splendid consignment of an international character from America. The clothes were contributed by English, Irish, and Americans, and a German helped to collect them. This was the second package from Miss Mary Merwin, Vice-Leader of the Woman Suffrage Party in New York.

We have had a motor-car offered us to collect and deliver clothes for the Menderies. Will someone lend us garage room?

Press Report.

The appeal sent out to the women of the Overseas Dominions, signed by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Lady French, and Lady Frances Balfour, is meeting with a most welcome response. During the last week, cheques have been sent for the relief of distress in Great Britain from kind friends in Natal and Krugersdorp, and also from India, and large bales of clothes of all descriptions have been forwarded from Colombo and New York to the offices of the National Union.

An article by Mrs. Fawcett, dealing with the work of the National Union, appears in this month's *Contemporary Review*.

Literature Department.

The "Scottish Federation Calendar" announced last week should have been the "Calendar of the Edinburgh Society," price 6d. Calendars by Miss Hedley Charlton are also on sale.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	£2,876	3	4
Miss E. Morgan		10	0
Miss A. L. Ferryman (for Motor Ambulance)	2	2	0
Mrs. G. E. Foster	5	0	0
Mrs. W. Kirby		5	0
N.W. Federation	25	0	0
Mrs. Anstruther	20	0	0
Miss Mary M. Adamson	1	0	0
Miss S. Gatliff (2nd donation)	2	0	0
Miss M. B. Greswell (2nd donation)	2	0	0
Miss Jessie Clarke	1	1	0
Mrs. E. Gamble (seventh weekly donation)		1	0
Mrs. Stafford Walker		5	0
Miss Rudmore Brown		6	0
Mrs. Walter Cohen	2	0	0
Miss Editha Taylor	5	0	0
Miss Jessica Fletcher	2	0	0
Miss D. Courtney		3	2
Miss B. Wilford Wood	10	0	0
Mrs. Grahame	5	0	0
Miss E. Hope Tennant	5	0	0
Mrs. A. J. Stephens		5	0
Miss D. M. Revell		13	6
Mrs. A. Beatrice Eliott	1	0	0
Mrs. A. G. Smith		5	0
Miss Rudmore Brown		6	0
"H. D."		5	0
Miss M. Morin	2	0	0
Mr. H. N. Brailsford	3	3	0
Farnham and District W.S.S.	2	7	6
Miss A. H. Blomefield		1	0
Mrs. Harold Grimsdale	5	0	0
Miss Farquhar	1	1	0
Mrs. W. M. Anderson		8	0
Mrs. M. Pool		2	6
Miss Gregg	1	0	0
Mrs. E. Gamble (eighth weekly donation)		1	0
Mrs. John Footman (Belgian Relief Abroad)		5	0
Mrs. Fitzroy Hecht	3	0	0
Mrs. Barton		2	0
Miss E. M. Macnaghten	5	0	0
Anonymous	1	4	6
Mrs. Evelegh	1	0	0
Mr. J. H. Badcock, Proceeds of Village lecture (For Belgian Refugees in Holland)	1	15	9
"M. A. R."		2	6
Miss A. M. Ferguson	2	0	0
Miss E. M. Duncan (Fourth donation)	1	0	0
Miss B. M. Dowie (For Women's Clubs)	5	0	0
Miss Davidson (For Motor Ambulance)		10	0
Mr. E. T. Crook	2	2	0
Miss Nevinson	2	0	0
Miss Johnstone	5	0	0
Dr. Maria Sharpe (India)	1	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle W.S.S.	3	3	0
Miss D. Courtney	5	14	0
Miss Fanny G. Lewis	5	0	0
Miss A. W. Cooke		10	6
Mr. Bernard Hicks		2	0
Miss Janet Dodge	1	0	0
Women's Reform Club, Krugersdorp	2	2	0
Mrs. Handley (Natal)	5	0	0
Mr. T. Tindle Anderson (Third monthly donation for THE COMMON CAUSE)		2	6
Mr. J. A. Morton (Third monthly donation)		5	0
Mrs. Morgan (Monthly donation for December)	1	0	0
*Received for Scottish Women's Hospital	111	2	6
At 50, Parliament Street—			
Miss Meeson		10	0
Miss Barrett		5	0
Miss Barke		10	0
Miss Mason	1	0	0
Employees at Charles Street P.O.	1	0	0
Anonymous		4	3
Shilling Fund		16	0
Total	3,153	3	6

*The names of the individual contributors will appear later under "The Scottish Women's Hospital."

LONDON SOCIETY'S BED IN THE NEW WATERLOO HOSPITAL.

£25 endows a bed inscribed with the name of the donor in the new Army Hospital for London about to be opened near Waterloo Station. Already half the amount has been subscribed by a few members, who desire that the London Society for Women's Suffrage shall have not only its own Motor Ambulance at the Front, but also its permanent bed for a wounded soldier in London. Donations should be sent immediately to Miss P. Strachey, 58, Victoria-street, S.W.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

EXHIBITION OF WEAVING.

All who are interested in handicrafts for women should go and see the excellent little exhibition and sale of British Weaving at Messrs. Derry & Toms, Kensington High Street. A great variety of hand-woven material is on show here, besides embroidered articles suitable for Christmas presents, and craftswomen may be seen at work on the loom and spinning wheel.

STONEHENGE WOOLLEN INDUSTRY (Lake, near Salisbury) supplies thick homespuns, very attractive in appearance and of exceptional durability, at prices ranging from 4s. 6d. per yard upwards for single width. Motor rugs and cloths of double thickness for motor wear are a speciality, and ladies golf coats can be matched in homespuns. The wool—which is mostly grown on Salisbury Plain—is spun in the cottages and woven in the village room.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF WEAVING (28, Davies Street, Berkeley Square, W.) turns out fine, light tweeds, and a very strong silk and linen material (6s. 6d. per yard) suitable for dresses or curtains; also mats and rugs.

THE THATCHED HOUSE (Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon) shows fine wool tweeds, of very good quality, suitable for coats and skirts or dresses. These run from 5s. 6d. per yard (32 in.) and are in a great variety of colours.

THE WEAVING STUDIOS (6, Denmark Street, Charing Cross Road) make some charming silk and flax material for casement curtains, and a variety of dress materials. They show, also, very effectively embroidered toilet covers, sideboard cloths, &c., and a number of scarves, cushions, bags, and other articles.

THE DISTAFF (Newport, Essex) has mercerised silk and cotton fabrics for dresses and curtains in very pretty colours, and a variety of handsomely embroidered articles, such as bedspreads and chair-backs, made in an excellent quality of linen.

THE FISHERTON-DE-LA-MARE Embroidery Class makes a great variety of attractive articles, such as mats, bags, table covers, in embroidered hand-spun linen. The work is done by disabled persons of either sex.

Forthcoming Meetings.

DECEMBER 4.

Brighton—Franchise Club, 4, New Road—Short Speeches on "War Time Clubs for Women" and "Some Experiences in Relief Work" 5.0

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Christmas Sale (War Relief Work)—to be opened by Miss Eva Moore at 12 noon—Chair S. E. S. Mair—Admission, 12.0 to 1.0, 1s.; after 1.0 p.m., 6d. 12.0

DECEMBER 5

Manchester—Minor Hall, Y.M.C.A., Peter Street—Special Conference for Members of the Manchester and District Federation of W.S.S. on "The Attitude of the N.U.W.S.S. to War"—Speaker, Miss C. Marshall—Chair, Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A. 3.0

DECEMBER 6.

Birmingham—Women's Breakfast Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.45 a.m.

Camberwell—I.L.P.—Mrs. Stanbury on "Women and War" 8.0

Hyde Park—Near Reformers' Tree—Speakers, Miss Ruth Young and others 3.0

DECEMBER 7.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party 3.0-5.0
16, Berkeley Square—First Aid—French Class 6.0-7.0
42, Montague Street—Women's Club—Open Daily 3.30-9.0

DECEMBER 8.

Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—French Class for Soldiers 6.0-7.0

Finchley—7, The Hawthorns, Regent's Park Road—Finchley Women's Municipal Association—Speaker, Miss Ellen Walshe 3.0

DECEMBER 9.

Birmingham—Women's "Beehive" 8.0

Bristol—40, Park Street—Sale of Work All Day
5, Berkeley Square—French Class 6.0-7.0

Edinburgh—82, Nicholson Street (Conservative Working-men's Club)—Miss Alice Low on "How I Escaped from Germany" 8.30

Gateshead—Berwick Hall, High West Street—Mrs. Hall on "Women's Work in War Time"—Soloist, Miss Wilson 3.0

DECEMBER 10.

Birkenhead—Tranmere Congregational Young People's Society—Speaker, Miss Wyse

Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—French Class 6.0-7.0

Glasgow—202, Hope Street—The Manager, Board of Trade Labour Exchange, on "Unemployment of Men" 4.0

DECEMBER 11.

Brighton—Franchise Club, 4, New Road—Mr. Merrifield on "Masculinity: Its Great Predominence in Prussian History 5.0

Bristol—40, Park Street—Ambulance Class 7.45
16, Berkeley Square—French Class 6.0-7.0

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker, Colonel Seton (National Service League) 4.30

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The introduction of the wonderful chemical substance "Seldonite," which doubles the "life" of coal, or, in other words, cuts in half the coal bill, is resulting in something like a sensation.

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Ladies are now finding that they are able to have in kitchen or drawing-room the brightest, cosiest, and hottest fires they wish, and yet make one scuttleful of coal treated with "Seldonite" go as far as two ordinary ones.

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No matter how small or how large your coal bill, you can effect a wonderful saving by using "Seldonite," and if you use, say, one ton of coals a month, you can save at least £5 during the coal fire season.

In order to give the public a most advantageous opportunity of testing "Seldonite" in their own homes, the proprietors have decided for a short while to send post free the full size 4s. box (sufficient to treat one ton of Coal, Coke, Anthracite, or Slack), with full directions, to all readers for only 2s. 6d. Orders and remittances, however, must be sent within the next few days. Five boxes will be forwarded (whilst this offer lasts) for only 10s.

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If you cannot sell yourself please send us some money so that we may employ out of work women to sell the paper. Donations should be sent to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Monthly Meeting for Sellers.

The next monthly meeting for sellers will be held at THE COMMON CAUSE Office (2, Robert Street, Adelphi) on Thursday, December 10th, at 6.30 p.m. It is hoped that all those who have helped or wish to help will make a point of attending.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots where Papers and Posters can be Obtained.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can be obtained from the Lady Clare Annesley, 44 Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2-3 p.m.

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT.—Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street, High Street, Kensington.

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Papers will be distributed to helpers any day except Sunday.

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the city is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" CAMP FUND.

The following additional donations have been received for supplying camps with THE COMMON CAUSE:—

Miss N. Stewart, 2s. 6d. (2nd monthly instalment); Dr. Goodrich, 13s.; Mrs. Overton, 6s. 6d.

The following have offered to send on their own copy of the paper to a camp:—

Mrs. Covington, Miss Glyde, Miss D. K. Pannett, Miss A. Martin Leake, Mrs. Heyworth, Mrs. Sinclair, Miss Evans, Miss D. W. Wright, Miss Baker, Mrs. Churchill, Miss Harvey, Mrs. Franklin, Miss Lereshe, Miss S. M. Knight, Miss E. Dates, Miss Walding, Mrs. Comber, Mrs. Williams, Miss F. Alton, Miss L. G. Rose Innes, Mrs. Musson, Mrs. Hargrove, Miss Murray, Mrs. Overton, Miss M. D. Jordan.

We shall be glad to receive further donations, and also to furnish anyone willing to send on her own copy with the address of a camp.

LODGING-HOUSE FOR WOMEN AT HULL.

The President and members of the Industrial Committee of the Hull Branch of the National Union of Women Workers are to be heartily congratulated on their achievement in opening the first lodging-house for women in the City at 72, Lister Street on Nov. 19th. It has been furnished throughout by Sir James and Lady Reekitt, and, thanks to their generosity and that of many other friends, it was opened free of debt, with a balance towards the first year's working. There are thirty single beds at 4d. and 6d. per night, and ample sanitary and lavatory accommodation is provided. Lodgers may cook their own food in a roomy kitchen, and a comfortable room is reserved for their use where they can eat their meals, sew, &c. There is an excellent washhouse, with plenty of hot and cold water, where they may wash their clothing, and a drying cupboard. For a deposit of 6d. a locker for clothing is provided, and also for a small sum a cupboard may be hired for storing food.

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Miss Fanny Perris		10	0
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MEMORIAL HALL, MANCHESTER,
MONDAY, December 7th, at 7.30 p.m.
HOPE SQUIRE and FRANK MERRICK will play UNFAMILIAR WORKS for TWO PIANOFORTES.
Tickets 5s. (Reserved), 2s. 6d. and 1s., from Messrs. FORSYTH BROS., 126, Deansgate, and at the Door

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

WOMEN AND WAR.

SERVICE OF INTERCESSION (arranged by the C.L.W.S.), Saturday, December 12th, 3 p.m., in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar-sq. Preacher: The Vicar, the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard.

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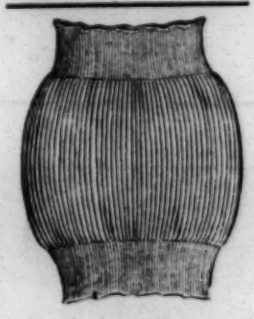

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